INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
PC 7 F04C18/02 F04C23/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 F04C F01C F04D 601M Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. US 4 696 627 A (ASANO HIDEO ET AL) χ 1,3-529 September 1987 (1987-09-29) figures 1,2 8-12 column 4, line 63 - column 5, line 23 EP 0 679 810 A (BOC GROUP PLC) X 1,2,4,5 2 November 1995 (1995-11-02) the whole document US 2003/059327 A1 (FUJIOKA TAMOTSU ET AL) X 1.3 - 527 March 2003 (2003-03-27) figures 1,2 column 4, paragraph 29 - paragraph 33 claim 7 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: 'T' later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the 'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention 'E' earlier document but published on or after the international *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filling date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 20 October 2004 28/10/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Lequeux, F

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